

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 902 without my signature.

Fire protection is one of California's most critical public safety missions; however, I cannot support this measure because it would earmark federal homeland security funds for one specific purpose at the expense of other programs that ensure homeland security efforts benefit all Californians. It would be unwise to dedicate funds without considering all potential security and safety needs.

In addition, the funding source identified in this bill is inappropriate. Funding obtained from the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-90) is limited by federal guidelines and does not provide for the purchase of fire engines. The cost of one hundred fifty new fire engines far exceeds the appropriation contained in the bill.

For these reasons I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger